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ABSTRACT

The writing objectives and the measurement specifications presented in this document are congruent with the Texas State Board of Education Rules for Curriculum. The objectives are provided for teachers and for test developers involved with the preparation of the Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS) tests. As of 1985-86 academic year, the TEAMS writing tests for grade 1 are based on the following objectives: (1) demonstrate the knowledge of standard uses of capitalization; (2) demonstrate the knowledge of standard punctuation; (3) write the correct spelling of commonly used words; and (4) recognize subject-verb agreement in a sentence. For each objective, this document provides a description of the test questions, a description of the answer choices and an example test question. (JAZ)

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Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills



Writing Objectives and Measurement Specifications 1986-1990 Grade 1

TM 810 046

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Texas Education Agency
Division of Student Assessment
March 1986

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FOREWORD

The learning objectives contained in this volume are congruent with the State Board of Education Rules for Curriculum which outlines the rules and procedures for implementation of Section 21.101 of the Texas Education Code. These objectives and the measurement specifications are provided for use by teachers and other educators responsible for pupil instruction and for test development specialists involved with the preparation of the Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS) tests. Beginning with the 1985-86 school year, the TEAMS tests were based upon the objectives in this publication.

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TEXAS EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF MINIMUM SKILLS

GRADE 1 WRITING

List of Objectives

SKILL AREA: Mechanics

Objective 1: Demonstrate the knowledge of standard uses of capitalization.

Objective 2: Demonstrate the knowledge of standard punctuation.

Objective 3: Write the correct spelling of commonly used words. *

SKILL AREA: English Usage

Objective 4: Recognize subject-verb agreement in a sentence.

* Items for this objective will be open-ended.

GRADE 1 WRITING

General Specifications

I. Test Questions/Items

- A. Sentences used in the test will be developed using only those words contained in the Texas Education Agency (TEA) cumulative vocabulary list for Grade 1. Proper nouns and words explained in the text are excluded from this requirement.
- B. Sentences will be of varying lengths and shall not exceed eight words in length.
- C. The content of sentences shall be appropriate for the interests and experiences of first grade students.
- D. Sentences shall represent various ethnic groups of populations in the State of Texas. The three main groups are black, Hispanic, and white.
- E. The sentences and items shall be free of stereotyping by age, sex, ethnicity, and geographical location.

II. Answer Choices

- A. All test items, except open-ended items for Objective 3, will be followed by a set of three answer choices. One answer choice will be the correct response, and two answer choices will be incorrect responses.
- B. Neither "none of the above" nor "all of the above" shall be used as an answer choice in multiple-choice items.
- C. Except where noted otherwise, all words in the items, including the answer choices, will be taken from the TEA cumulative vocabulary list for Grade 1. Proper nouns and words explained in the text are excluded from this requirement.

III. Test Package Format

- A. Sufficient white space shall be included on each page.
- B. Test questions and their corresponding answer choices shall appear on the same page.
- C. Type size shall be appropriate for first grade students.

OBJECTIVES AND MEASUREMENT SPECIFICATIONS

SKILL AREA: MECHANICS

Objective 1

Demonstrate the knowledge of standard uses of capitalization.

Description of Test Questions

A test item will require students to identify the sentence that is correctly capitalized by answering the question, "Which sentence uses capital letters correctly?"

Description of Answer Choices

1. The correct answer choice will be a grammatically correct sentence that employs the following capitalization rules eligible for testing:
 - a. the first word of a sentence should always be capitalized;
 - b. the pronoun "I" should always be capitalized; and
 - c. the name of a person should always be capitalized.
2. Incorrect answer choices will be grammatically correct sentences, except that they will not employ one of the capitalization rules eligible for testing (missing capitalization).

Example of Test Questions

Teacher says: "For each question, read the three sentences to yourself. Find the one which uses capital letters correctly. Fill in the space next to your answer."

- ☐ I went to the zoo. (correct)
- ☐ We saw my friend john. (missing capitalization)
- ☐ the toy car is broken. (missing capitalization)

SKILL AREA: MECHANICS

Objective 2

Demonstrate the knowledge of standard punctuation.

Description of Test Questions

A test item will require students to identify the sentence that is correctly punctuated by answering the question, "Which sentence uses a period or a question mark correctly?"

Description of Answer Choices

1. The correct answer choice will be a grammatically correct sentence that employs one of the following punctuation rules eligible for testing:
 - a. a period should always be used at the end of a declarative sentence; and
 - b. a question mark should always be used at the end of an interrogative sentence.
2. Incorrect answer choices will be grammatically correct except for one of the following types of errors:
 - a. missing punctuation, that is, no punctuation is provided after a declarative or interrogative sentence; or
 - b. incorrect period, that is, a period is used instead of a question mark after an interrogative sentence.
3. Missing punctuation can be used in only one incorrect answer choice per item.
4. Interrogative sentences will begin with either "where," "when," "why," "who," "what," "how," or "are. "
5. The first word in approximately one-third of the declarative sentences will begin with a "w."
6. Sentences will contain no punctuation other than a period or a question mark.

Example of Test Questions

Teacher says: "For each question, read the three sentences to yourself. Find the one sentence which uses a period or a question mark correctly. Fill in the space next to your answer."

- ☐ We like pretty flowers. (correct)
- ☐ The house is red (missing punctuation)
- ☐ Where do you go to school. (incorrect period)

SKILL AREA: MECHANICS

Objective 3

Write the correct spelling of commonly used words.

Description of Test Questions

1. A test item will require students to spell an orally presented word after being given the following directions: "The word is (tested word). (Sentence using tested word.) Spell the word (tested word)."
2. The tested word will be selected from the TEA spelling list for first grade.

Description of Answers

1. Students will write the tested word on a blank line.
2. The correct answer will be the correct spelling of the tested word.
3. Incorrect answers will be incorrect spellings of the tested word.

Example of Test Questions

Teacher says: "The word is boy. The boy likes to play. Spell the word boy."

1. _____

SKILL AREA: ENGLISH USAGE

Objective 4

Recognize subject-verb agreement in a sentence.

Description of Test Questions

A test item will require students to identify the sentence in which the subject and verb agree by answering the question, "Which sentence uses words in the right way?"

Description of Answer Choices

1. Subjects eligible for testing will include simple subjects, compound subjects formed by "and," or personal pronouns. Simple subjects, compound subjects, verbs, and/or personal pronouns will be underlined.
2. Answer choices for each test item will be written in the present tense.
3. The correct answer choice will be a grammatically correct sentence in which the verb agrees in number with the subject of the sentence.
4. Incorrect answer choices will be those in which the subject and verb do not agree in number.

Example of Test Questions

Teacher says: "For each question, read the three sentences to yourself. Find the one sentence which uses words in the right way. Fill in the space next to your answer."

- ☐ The children walk home. (correct)
- ☐ The girls throws the ball. (lack of agreement)
- ☐ Sandy play with the dog. (lack of agreement)

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

TITLE VI, CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964; THE MODIFIED COURT ORDER, CIVIL ACTION 5281, FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT, EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, TYLER DIVISION

Reviews of local education agencies pertaining to compliance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964 and with specific requirements of the Modified Court Order, Civil Action No. 5281, Federal District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Tyler Division are conducted periodically by staff representatives of the Texas Education Agency. These reviews cover at least the following policies and practices:

- (1) acceptance policies on student transfers from other school districts;
- (2) operation of school bus routes or runs on a non-segregated basis;
- (3) nondiscrimination in extracurricular activities and the use of school facilities;
- (4) nondiscriminatory practices in the hiring, assigning, promoting, paying, demoting, reassigning, or dismissing of faculty and staff members who work with children;
- (5) enrollment and assignment of students without discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin;
- (6) nondiscriminatory practices relating to the use of a student's first language; and
- (7) evidence of published procedures for hearing complaints and grievances.

In addition to conducting reviews, the Texas Education Agency staff representatives check complaints of discrimination made by a citizen or citizens residing in a school district where it is alleged discriminatory practices have occurred or are occurring.

Where a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act is found, the findings are reported to the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

If there is a direct violation of the Court Order in Civil Action No. 5281 that cannot be cleared through negotiation, the sanctions required by the Court Order are applied.

TITLE VII, CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964; EXECUTIVE ORDERS 11246 AND 11375; TITLE IX, 1973 EDUCATION AMENDMENTS; REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AS AMENDED; 1974 AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGE-HOUR LAW EXPANDING THE AGE DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 1967; AND VIETNAM ERA VETERANS READJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1972 AS AMENDED IN 1974.

It is the policy of the Texas Education Agency to comply fully with the nondiscrimination provisions of all federal and state laws and regulations by assuring that no person shall be excluded from consideration for recruitment, selection, appointment, training, promotion, retention, or any other personnel action, or be denied any benefits or participation in any programs or activities which it operates on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, handicap, age, or veteran status (except where age, sex, or handicap constitute a bona fide occupational qualification necessary to proper and efficient administration). The Texas Education Agency makes positive efforts to employ and advance in employment all protected groups.